IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A tape library apparatus to which a node ID is assigned and that is connected to a host computer, comprising:

a plurality of drives for recording and reproducing data to and from respective large capacity tape recording mediums, the drives having respective interfaces being capable of transferring large capacity data to the host computer,

wherein selected drives are assigned respective node IDs as first addresses and respective port IDs that represent mounted order numbers as second addresses and the interfaces are activated, the first address being used to determine whether a drive is new and the second address being used to determine whether a mounted drive is moved to a different port,

wherein the first addresses and the second addresses are stored in a nonvolatile memory disposed in corresponding drives, and

wherein an address previously assigned to a particular drive upon production is used when (i) the particular drive is not assigned the first address and the second address and (ii) a command causing the particular drive to be assigned the first address and the second address is not received from the host computer.

2.   (Original) The tape library apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when a new drive is mounted on the tape drive apparatus, the

newly mounted drive is assigned the first address and the second address in accordance with a

command received from the host computer.

3.   (Previously Presented) The tape library apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the mounted position of each of the selected drives is

changed, the moved drive is assigned the first address and the second address in accordance with

a command received from the host computer.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a tape library apparatus to

which a node ID is assigned and that is connected to a host computer, comprising the steps of:

assigning respective node IDs as first addresses and respective port IDs that

represent mounted order numbers as second addresses to a plurality of selected drives for

recording and reproducing data to and from respective large capacity tape recording mediums,

the selected drives having respective interfaces being capable of transferring large capacity data

to the host computer;

storing the first addresses and the second addresses in a nonvolatile memory

disposed in corresponding drives;

determining whether a drive is new based on the first address;

determining whether a mounted drive is moved to a different port based on a

second address;

activating the interfaces; and

using an address previously assigned to a particular drive upon production when the particular drive is not assigned the first address and the second address and a command causing the particular drive to be assigned the first address and the second address is not received from the host computer.

6.   (Original) The method for controlling the tape library as set forth in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

when a new drive is mounted on the tape drive apparatus, assigning the newly mounted drive the first address and the second address in accordance with a command received from the host computer.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method for controlling the tape library as set forth in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

when the mounted position of each of the selected drives is changed, assigning the moved drive the first address and the second address in accordance with a command received from the host computer.

8.   (Canceled)